

Classifieds / Outdoor Rec

HELP WANTED

BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J is currently accepting applications for a **BMS science teacher and a PE/Health teacher**. For a complete description of the positions go to www.baker.k12.or.us or contact the employment division. You may also call 541-524-2261 or email norma.nemec@bakersd.org.

5.20

BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J is currently accepting applications for a **BHS Assistant Football Coach and a Fall and Winter Cheer Coach**. For a complete description of the positions go to www.baker.k12.or.us or contact the employment division. You may also call 541-524-2261 or email norma.nemec@bakersd.org.

5.20

PUBLIC NOTICE: WEED SPRAY GIVEAWAY!

For 2016, Baker County Weed District will again be giving out herbicide on the following locations, dates, and times. This fully mixed, ready-to-go herbicide will be targeting whitetop and scotch thistle. Folks need to bring chemical-resistant containers, preferably gas or oil cans, and a pair of chemical-resistant gloves. Please, no food containers. There will be a five gallon limit imposed for each residence.

Note!!! New location for Baker City Giveaways!

Where	Date	Time
Huntington Service Station	April 22	8:00 - 11 AM
Richland/Halfway - Wildflower Corner	May 6	7 - 12 Noon
Baker City - Old ODOT Building 1050 S. Bridge	May 21	7 - 12 Noon
Baker City - Old ODOT Building 1050 S. Bridge Street	May 28	7 - 12 Noon
Hereford Hall /Unity Hall Hereford - Unity	June 3	9 AM - 10:30 AM

Ethanol is not my friend



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN
By Todd Arriola

Two weekends ago spent with my much better half, Brandi and Airianna, enjoying the activities at Geiser-Pollman Park, provided by the volunteers for Healthy Kids Day (front page, last issue), and last weekend spent with the same, as well as other special ladies, for Mother's Day, distracted me from the obvious issue of taming growing lawns with equipment that is less than 100% operational. My conclusion: ethanol is not my friend.

Every year, this amazingly quick growth in grass (and weeds) should be expected, but it seems to be a "surprise" each time, for some unknown reason(s). Seasons seem to change so

quickly here (okay, winter takes some time), and grass seems to grow with a vengeance, having taken a break during the cold months. Admittedly, I've not always made a habit of draining mowing and weed-eating equipment properly after

the growing season, leading to hassles after winter has passed. Having said that, considering the remarks from people more knowledgeable about engines than me, and the issues experienced by some, with gasoline that contains ethanol, I believe I may have a good foundation upon which to stand, to place blame for my grass mowing woes.

For example, a gallon of ethanol contains, to my knowledge, less energy than a gallon of gasoline. That doesn't thrill me to begin with, because I would be necessarily using and paying more to use ethanol, or fuel with ethanol. Strike number

one. A local engine repair man told me that ethanol "soaks up water like a sponge," and it can damage fuel lines, etc., which is obviously not great for engines. Strike number two. As if I needed to hear more, when I consider the energy and subsidies it takes to produce ethanol, and the overall process involved, light years away from any claim of "saving the environment," a strike out comes to mind.

During the troubleshooting of my mowing equipment issues, I ended up changing the engine oil, the oil filter, the fuel filter, the spark plug, and draining and replacing the fuel. Basically, about every fundamental thing I could do outside the engine and carburetor, without dismantling the mower (too much).

I even have started using ethanol-free fuel, from a local gas station, in my pickup, notably, not a new model. This is because I've experienced issues with it also, and fundamentally and logically, I start from the power source, and the fuel source, and go from there. This experiment is still ongoing, because damage may have already been done, using

"regular" fuel, with ethanol added.

In the meantime, my sister-in-law had purchased a new push mower, with the explicit instructions that my brother (or anyone else, I think) not ever use it. This helps to inspire a quick remedy for the current mower issues, since hers is the only machine currently able to cut grass, and stay operational for more than five minutes. Maybe we're just cursed to experience mechanical and other issues, but I think that at least one of the problems may be fuel-related, though the jury is still out on that issue.

Just to be clear, I do prefer choices in today's world, and I don't want to keep others from using gasoline with ethanol, if they desire, for whatever reasons, including any manufacture recommendations/requirements. However, in my singular case, I will remain in the ethanol-free camp for now, choosing that option for all of the engines I have daily contact with. We'll see how that works out, but there is one thing I do know, without any doubt whatsoever: the grass and weeds aren't getting any shorter...

Local man is new Special Olympics coach for World Games

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Bryan Tweit has been a downhill ski coach for the Special Olympics for the past 25 years. His tenure with the Special Olympics is pretty impressive. He's coached athletes from Baker City, Union, La Grande, even John Day.

He has run sectionals and regionals at Anthony Lakes and for the last several years he's helped run the state games at Mt. Bachelor, in charge of all the downhill events keeping both Coaches and Athletes organized. Recently, he learned some pretty exciting news.

He applied for and was selected to be a coach for the Special Olympic World Games being held in Austria in 2017.

"I was pretty excited," he

said of learning the news.

"It's a pretty long process. It's almost like applying for a Fortune 500 company," he explained. "You have to give a ton of information. There has to be lots of references. You have to have a state director give you a reference as well. Several hundred applied. There is one head coach and 12 U.S. coaches that were selected."

According to Tweit, although the games will be held in 2017. "It is really a 10-month process starting now."

Tweit indicated that part of the training required is what they call "dry land games," exercises for the athletes to start getting them in shape for when there is snow.

"We find and identify all the athletes that we are going to be working with. The local athletes around



Submitted Photo.

Brian Tweit is headed for Austria as a coach.

here that I know will be going have already started some of that work. We were lucky enough to have two athletes from Oregon that were selected to attend, both from our area. One of them has been competing for at least 25 years, I've coached. The other I know has been competing for several years. It was pretty impressive that there were only two spots for the State of Oregon and both spots went to athletes from our area," said Tweit.

No exact count of Athletes was available but Tweit expected that information soon.

The USA World Special Olympics Team will take care of all travel expenses to Austria and while they are there so, "It's not an expense we have to worry

about," said Tweit. One of the most important thing the Special Olympics stresses is that the athletes never have to worry about paying or pay for the opportunity to participate.

Fundraisers are held to benefit the local chapters of the Special Olympics, most notably Serve It Up Hot and Tip-A-Cop in which local Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers spend and evening serving patrons at Barley Browns Brew Pub with all "tip" proceeds and generally a substantial donation from Barley Brown's benefiting the local Special Olympic chapters also cultivating a friendly competition between the two departments. Tip-A-Cop was held Thursday May 12.

Leave young wildlife alone

May and June are the months when newborn animals are getting their start in the wild. Help them out by giving them space and leaving them alone.

ODFW and Oregon State Police remind Oregonians that taking young animals out of the wild isn't just against the law—it's also bad for the animal. These animals miss the chance to learn important survival skills from their parents like where to feed, what to eat, how to behave as part of a group and how to escape from predators.

Unfortunately, every year about this time, ODFW offices across Oregon get calls from people concerned about "orphaned" deer fawns, elk calves, seal pups and other animals they find alone. But the mother animal is usually just off feeding not far away. She will return soon, so don't interfere.

"People often pick up animals they find alone out of good intentions, without realizing they may be sentencing the animal to an early death by removing it from its natural environment and its parents," said Julia Burco, ODFW Wildlife Veterinarian.

"Never assume one of a young animal is orphaned unless you saw the parent killed," continued Buco. "In almost all cases, the parent will return once it is safe to do so, like when people and dogs aren't around."

If an animal is injured, or truly orphaned, it needs special care. Oregon's licensed wildlife rehabilitators have the knowledge and facilities to provide this care. They use special methods that limit human interaction and mimic the animal's natural lifestyle as much as possible, so the animal can hopefully be returned to the wild.

Before picking up any wild animal, call ODFW, Oregon State Police, or a wildlife rehabilitator for advice. Removing or "capturing" an animal from the wild and keeping it in captivity without a permit is against state law (OAR 635-044-0015), as is transporting many animals. Last year, seven people were cited for such offenses (No wildlife holding permit/Take-hold young game mammal).

Follow these tips if you encounter young animals in the wild:

Deer, elk and other mammals:

Never assume an animal is orphaned. Don't remove it from the forest, including your backyard. Female deer and elk and other mammals will often leave their young temporarily for safety reasons or to feed elsewhere. They will return when it is safe to do so (when people, dogs, or predators are not present).

Call your local ODFW office, Oregon State Police office, or a local licensed wildlife rehabilitation center when: 1) you see an animal that you know is orphaned because you observed the dead parent animal, or 2) the parent hasn't returned for several hours or even up to a day, or 3) if the animal is clearly injured or in distress. Bunnies are rarely orphaned; mother rabbits only visit den sites at dusk and dawn to feed her young. Keep your dog or cat away from young wildlife, especially in the spring.

If you see a seal pup, young sea lion, or other marine mammal that appears stranded or in distress, contact OSP's hotline at 1-800-452-7888.

Birds:

Leave fledgling birds alone. It is natural for fledgling (mostly feathered) birds to be awkward while learning how to fly. If you see one on the ground, leave it alone and keep your distance. Bring your pets under control and indoors if possible. The mother bird will feed it for several days on the ground until it "gets its wings." Return nestling birds to the nest. Nestlings (baby birds not fully feathered) found on the ground can be gently and quickly returned to the nest. If the nest is out of reach, place the bird on an elevated branch or fence, or in a nest made from a small box, out of the reach of children and pets. Leave the area so the parent birds can return. Bring your pets indoors. Cats are a major cause of injury and death for all birds, killing millions of birds in the US annually. Keep your pets away from fledgling birds learning to fly.

Be careful when pruning trees as there may be a bird nest in the branch. Wait until birds are out of the nest.

Beware of cavity nesters. Barn owls and other birds could be nesting in hollowed-out trees or logs and in haystacks.

What if a bird flies into a window and appears hurt? Birds can be confused by reflective surfaces and mistakenly fly into windows. If you find a bird that has been stunned as a result of a window strike, put the bird in an uncovered box with a towel on the bottom. Keep it in a quiet place away from pets and check back in a couple of hours. If the bird has recovered, it will have flown off. If not, contact a local ODFW office or your local wildlife rehabilitator.

Let turtles cross the road. In May and June, females begin searching for suitable nesting grounds to lay their eggs. If you see a turtle on the ground, the best thing to do is leave it alone and let it continue on its path. It's fine to move it off a road (if it is safe for you to do so,) but put it on the other side, where it was headed.

Ladies golf scores

Following are the results for the May 4, 2016 Quail Ridge Ladies Golf Day.

Predict your score:

- 1st Flight Sammye Linzel-by one point
 - 2nd Margo Kenworth-by one point
 - 3rd DaDonna Uttenreuther-by 5 points
- Bridge Winners:
- 1st Joan Colton
 - 2nd Margo Kenworthy
 - 3rd Betty Combs